

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 942

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: IREX ROLE IN UNIVERSITY TO UNIVERSITY EXCHANGES

FOR CU/EE

USIA FOR IEU

LENINGRAD FOR P&C

REF: STATE 55294

1. KASSOF RAISED SUBJECT BOTH AT MHE AND MGU, IN COURSE OF OTHER DISCUSSIONS. MHE GENERALLY NON-COMMITTAL, SIMPLY STATING PROCEDURE FOR INTERESTED US UNIVERSITY TO FOLLOW, I.E., SEND LETTER OF PROPOSAL BOTH TO SELECTED SOVIET UNIVERSITY AND TO MHE. MGU SAID IT HAD RECEIVED PROPOSALS FROM SUNY, U. OF PITTSBURGH, WAS EXPECTING ONE FROM MUCIA. THEY SAW NO PARTICULAR NEED TO GO THROUGH IREX, SINCE THESE WERE DIRECT APPROACHES, BUT OF COURSE THEY WELCOMED ANY INFORMATION IREX OBTAINED, AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS ON STANDARDIZATION. MGU DEFINITELY PUT OFF ANY IREX ATTEMPT TO BECOME THEIR REPRESENTATIVE VIS-A-VIS MAJOR US UNIVERSITIES, BUT THEY ALWAYS ARE WILLING TO TAKE NOTE OF INFORMATION ON OTHER EXCHANGE POSSIBILITIES PASSED BY IREX. CAO, ASKED TO MEETING BY MGU AS A SORT OF ARBITRATOR BECAUSE, AS KHOLKHLOV SAID EARLIER, US ORGANIZATIONS ARE "JEALOUS OF EACH OTHER," SAID THAT AS FAR AS HE UNDERSTOOD INTENTIONS OF US UNIVERSITIES INTERESTED IN CONTACTS, THEY WOULD PREFER TO NEGOTIATE WITH MGU DIRECTLY. IT WOULD BE UP TO MGU TO ASSESS PROPOSALS ON BASIS OF WIDEST

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INFORMATION AND ADVICE IT FELT APPROPRIATE TO SEEK, AND THEN TO

MAKE OWN DECISION. TROPIN AGREED WITH THESE POINTS. (ABOVE COMMENTS ALL BY TROPIN, WHO HAD DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH KHOKHLOV. KHOKHLOV WAS OUT OF TOWN ON DAY OF MEETING; HE HAD COME BRIEFLY TO EARLIER PARTY FOR IREX AT CAO'S APARTMENT AS COURTESY TO IREX, BUT HAD NOT DISCUSSED UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY EXCHANGES IN DETAIL.)

2. IN TALKS WITH P&C COUNSELOR AND EMBOFFS CONCERNED WITH EXCHANGES, KASSOF MADE CLEAR HE WAS NOT TRYING TO TAKE OVER MAIN ROLE ON UNIVERSITY-TO-UNIVERSITY CONTACTS. HE SAID FRANKLY THAT ASIDE FROM A FEW MAJOR UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIPS, MAIN NEED WHICH PROBABLY WOULD APPEAR WOULD BE TO ASSIST AS INFORMATION CHANNEL AND ADVISER ON STANDARDS WITH SMALLER UNIVERSITIES WITHOUT THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF RESOURCES OF INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS SUNY.

3. EMBASSY VIEW IS THAT IMPORTANT, WELL MOTIVATED RELATIONSHIPS WILL DEVELOP NATURALLY WITHOUT IREX ROLE. HOWEVER, RECOMMEND AGAINST CU'S DIRECTLY OPPOSING IREX AT AAASS MEETING IN CONFRONTATIONAL TONE WHICH, JUDGING FROM THE NOTES, SEEMED TO CHARACTERIZE CU/IREX BRIEFING AT LAST YEAR'S AAASS ATLANTA MEETING.

4. SOVIET DESIRE TO HAVE UMBRELLA OF CULTURAL AGREEMENT, NOTED IN LAST SENTENCE PARA ONE REFTTEL, IS SIMPLY EXPRESSION OF USUAL SOVIET DESIRE TO HAVE GREEN LIGHT FOR PROGRAM EXPRESSED IN SOME FORMAL DOCUMENT. ORIGINAL USNY-THOREZ AGREEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, BEGAN BY REFERRING TO BOTH COUNTRIES' DESIRE TO EXPAND LANGUAGE EXCHANGES AS EXPRESSED IN CULTURAL AGREEMENT. EMBASSY WILL NOT REPEAT NOT PROPOSE INCLUDE IN 1977-79 CULTURAL AGREEMENT MORE THAN GENERALITY, FOR EXAMPLE: "BOTH SIDES AGREE ENCOURAGE, WHEREEVER PRACTICABLE, DIRECT EXCHANGES BETWEEN THEIR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS." IREX WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE MENTIONED BY NAME.
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